

Drivers of the post-recessionary fertility decline

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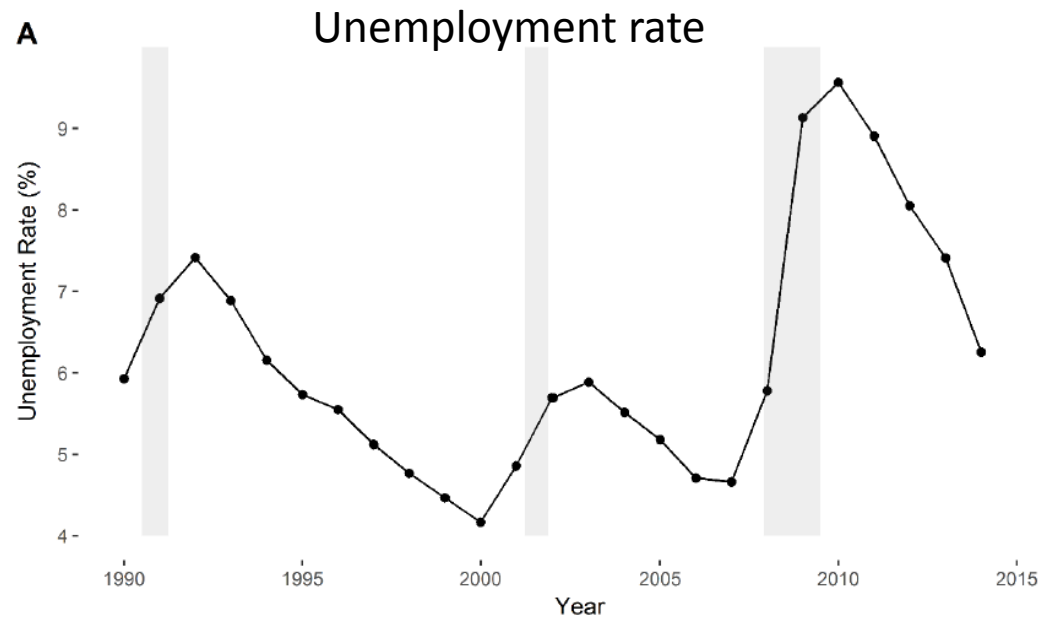
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Why has fertility declined since the Great Recession?

- Economic and related structural factors
- Changing fertility intentions
- Reductions in unintended pregnancy
 - Concomitant increase in LARC use
- Hispanic fertility
- Postponement of childbearing (covered by Joshua Goldstein)

The current puzzle

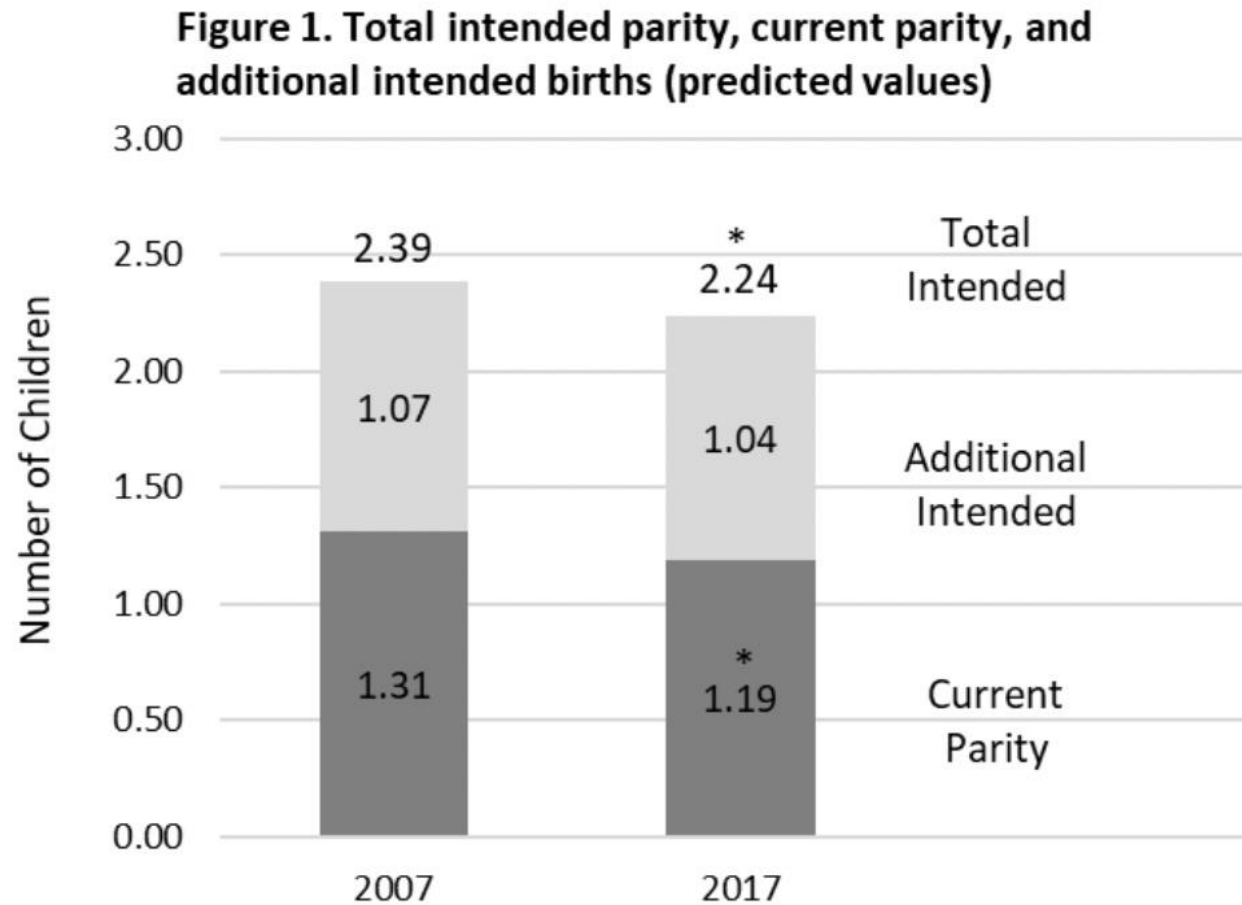
- Economic indicators have improved but period fertility rates continue to decline
- Perhaps other structural factors are at play?



Structural changes in US labor markets matter

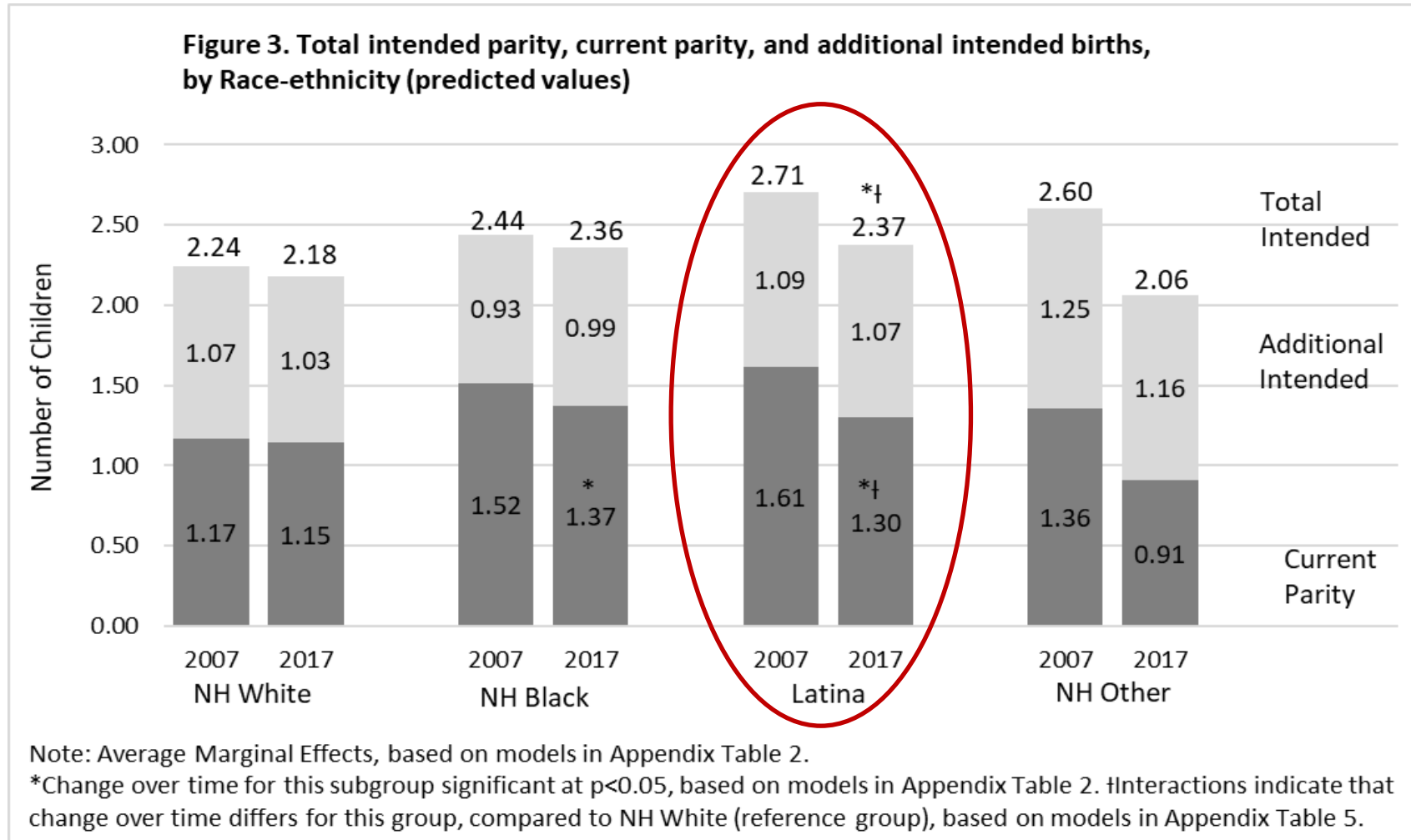
- The loss of manufacturing and construction businesses have a larger effect on TFR than the unemployment rate (Seltzer 2019)
 - The effect size is substantially larger for women of color than whites, particularly black and Hispanic women

Have fertility intentions declined?

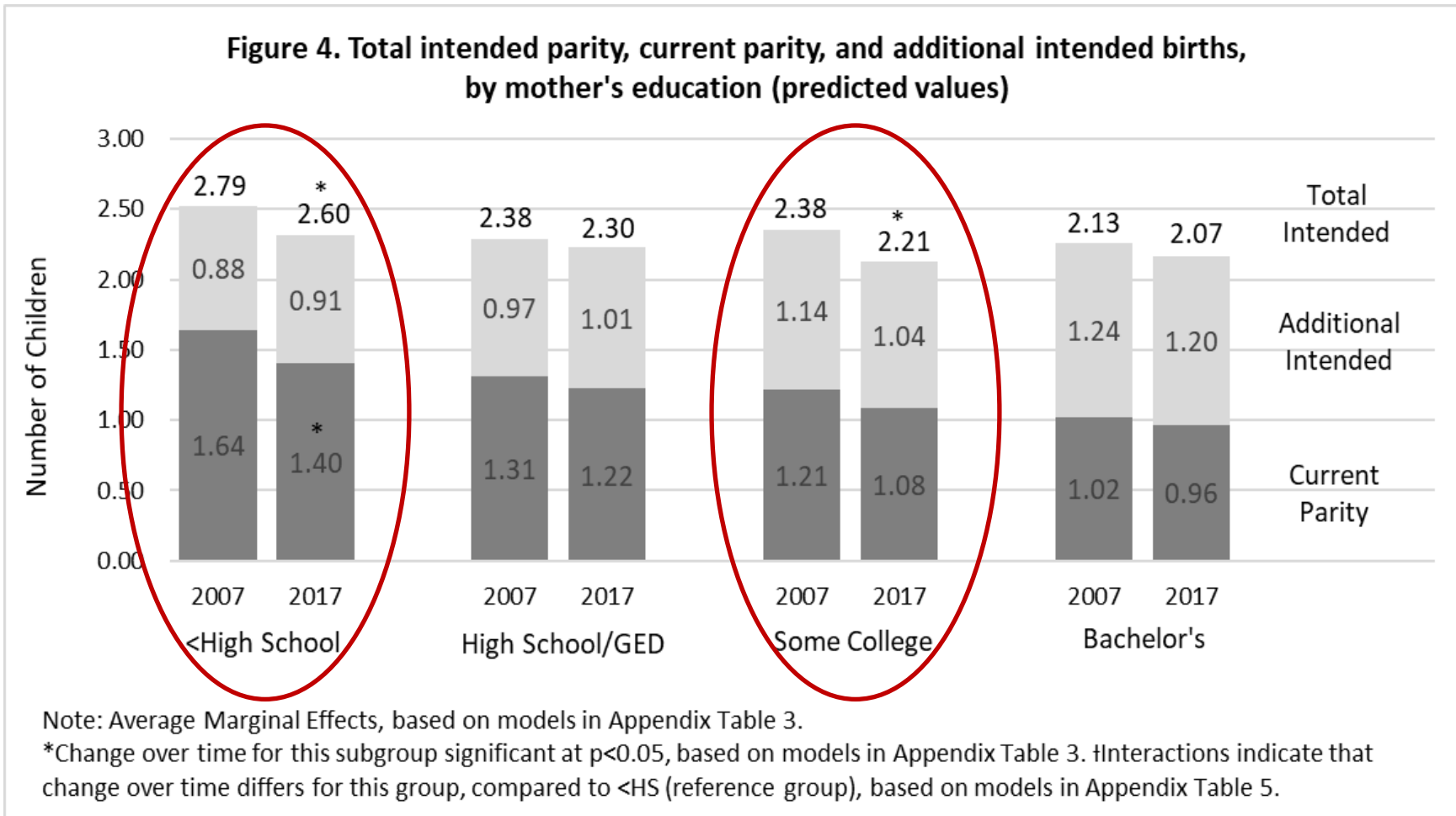


Note: Average marginal effects, based on models in Table 2.

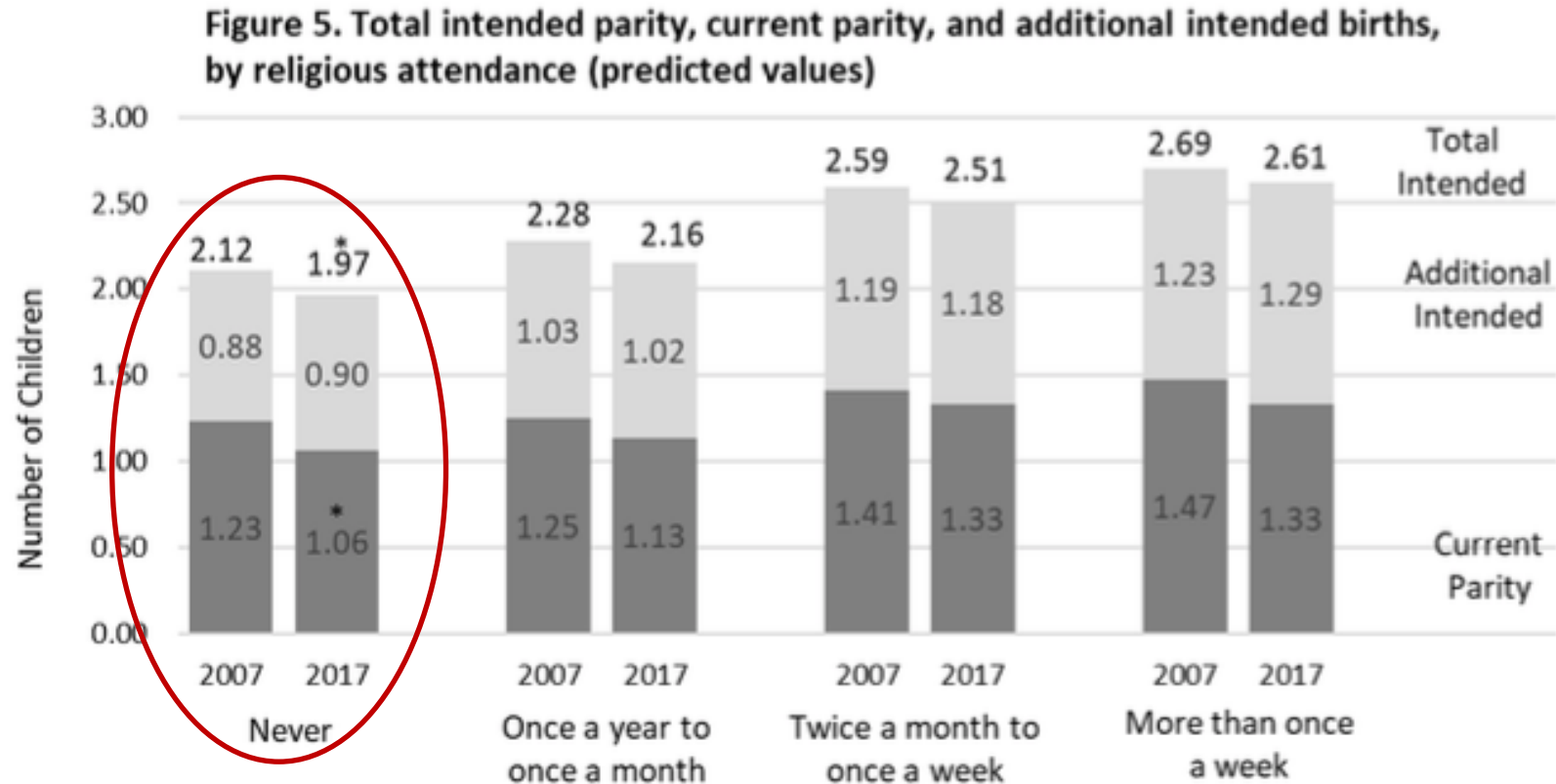
Declines are largest for Latinas



Declines also vary by maternal education



And religious attendance



Note: Average Marginal Effects, based on models in Appendix Table 4.

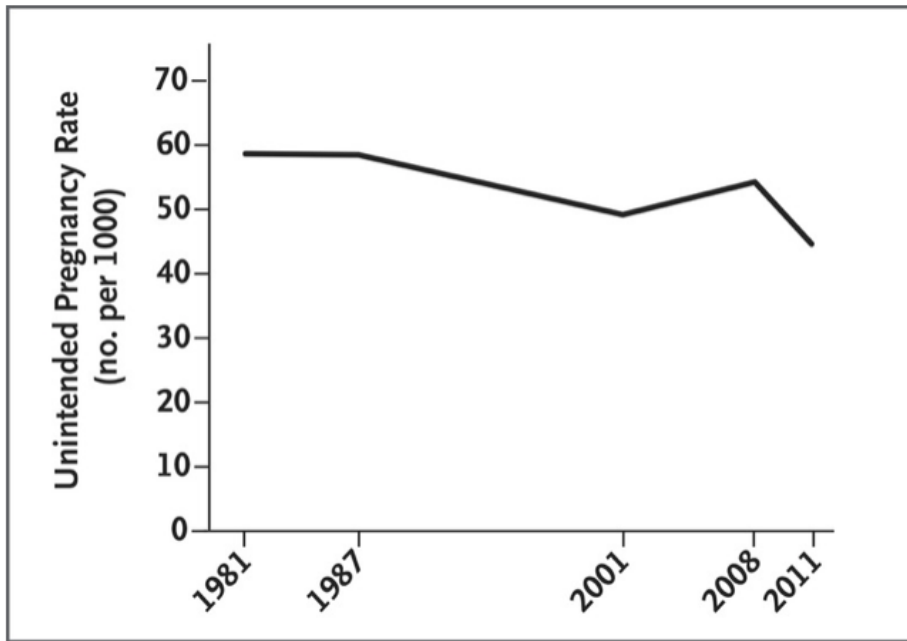
*Change over time for this subgroup significant at $p < 0.05$, based on models in Appendix Table 4. Interactions indicate that change over time differs for this group, compared "Never" (reference group), based on models in Appendix Table 5.

Have fertility intentions declined? Summary

- There has been a decline in the total number of children women intend to have. This is due to a decline in current parity that is not compensated for with an increase in "additional number of children expected."
- There was a significant decline over time in total intended parity among: Latina women, the lowest SES women (and mid-high SES women), and women with no religious attendance (controlling for other factors)
- In particular, there's a shift toward intending to be childless rather than a shift away from big families

Unintended pregnancy has declined since the Great Recession

Figure 1.



Rates of Unintended Pregnancy, 1981–2011.

Figure 7: The Predicted Proportion of Births that Are Unintended, 1980–2016, Using 2002 NSFG Coefficients



Post-recessionary fertility decline largely driven by declines in unintended pregnancy

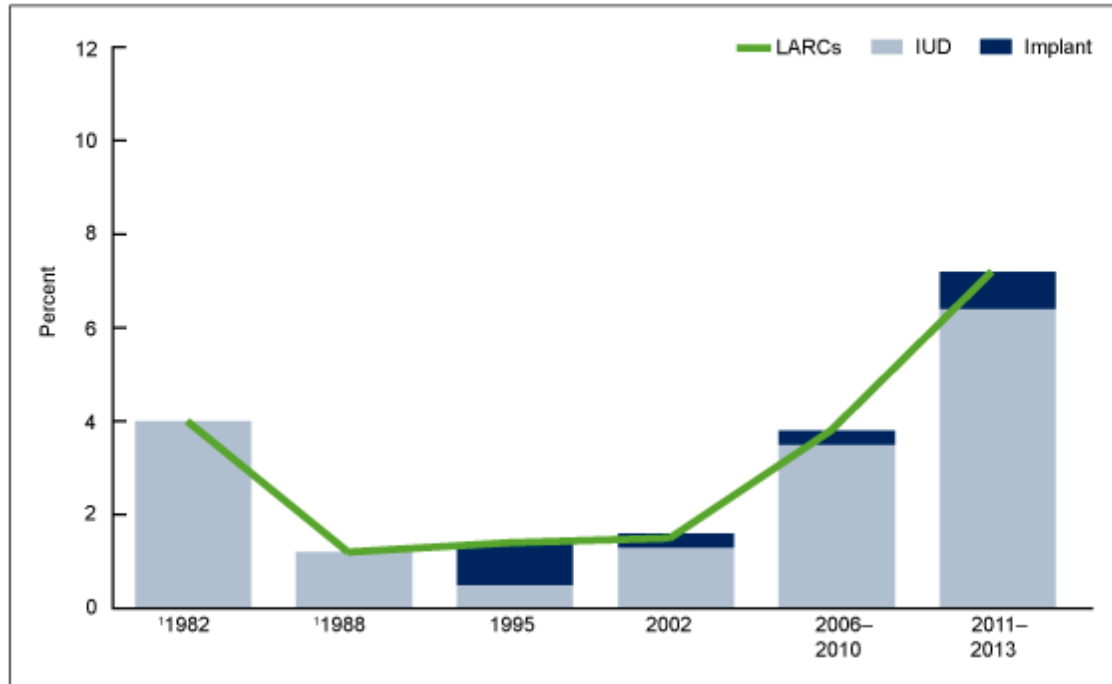
- 35% of the decline in fertility between 2007 and 2016 can be explained by declines in births that were likely unintended (Buckles et al. 2019)

Why is unintended pregnancy declining?

- Better access to contraception (ACA) or increasing use of more effective types of contraception (e.g. LARCs) (Finer & Zolna 2016; Snyder et al. 2018)
- Probably not due abortion; abortion rate has been falling and now at lowest recorded levels (Jones & Jerman 2014, 2017)
- Economic concerns that have raised the cost of fertility among poor and unmarried women (Schneider and Hastings 2015)

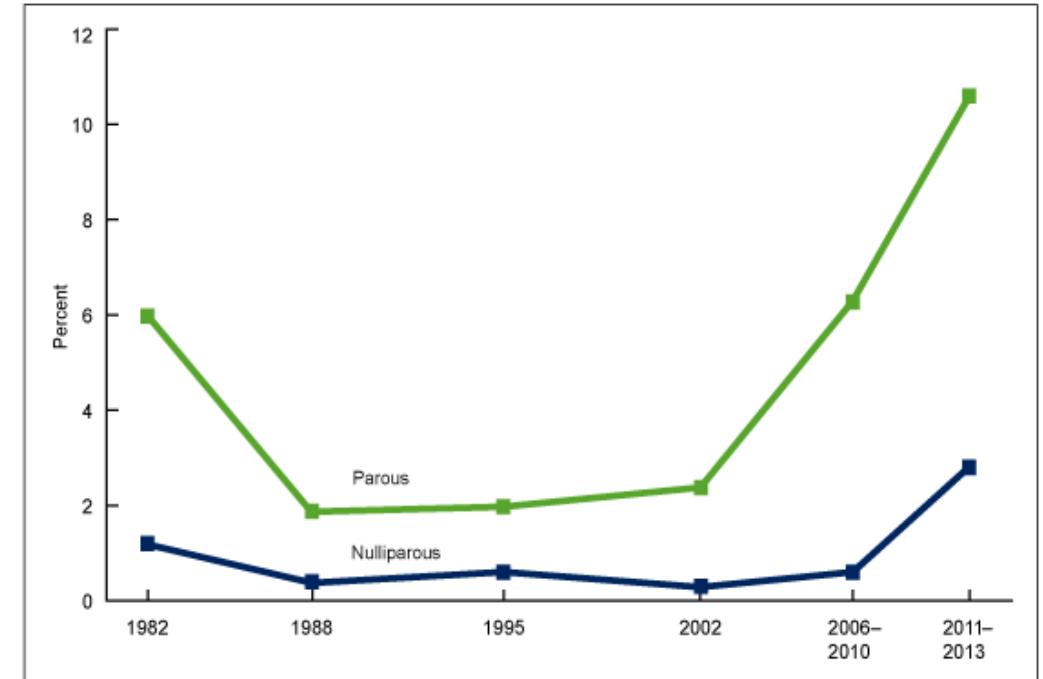
More women are using LARCs

Figure 1. Trends in current long-acting reversible contraceptive use, by device



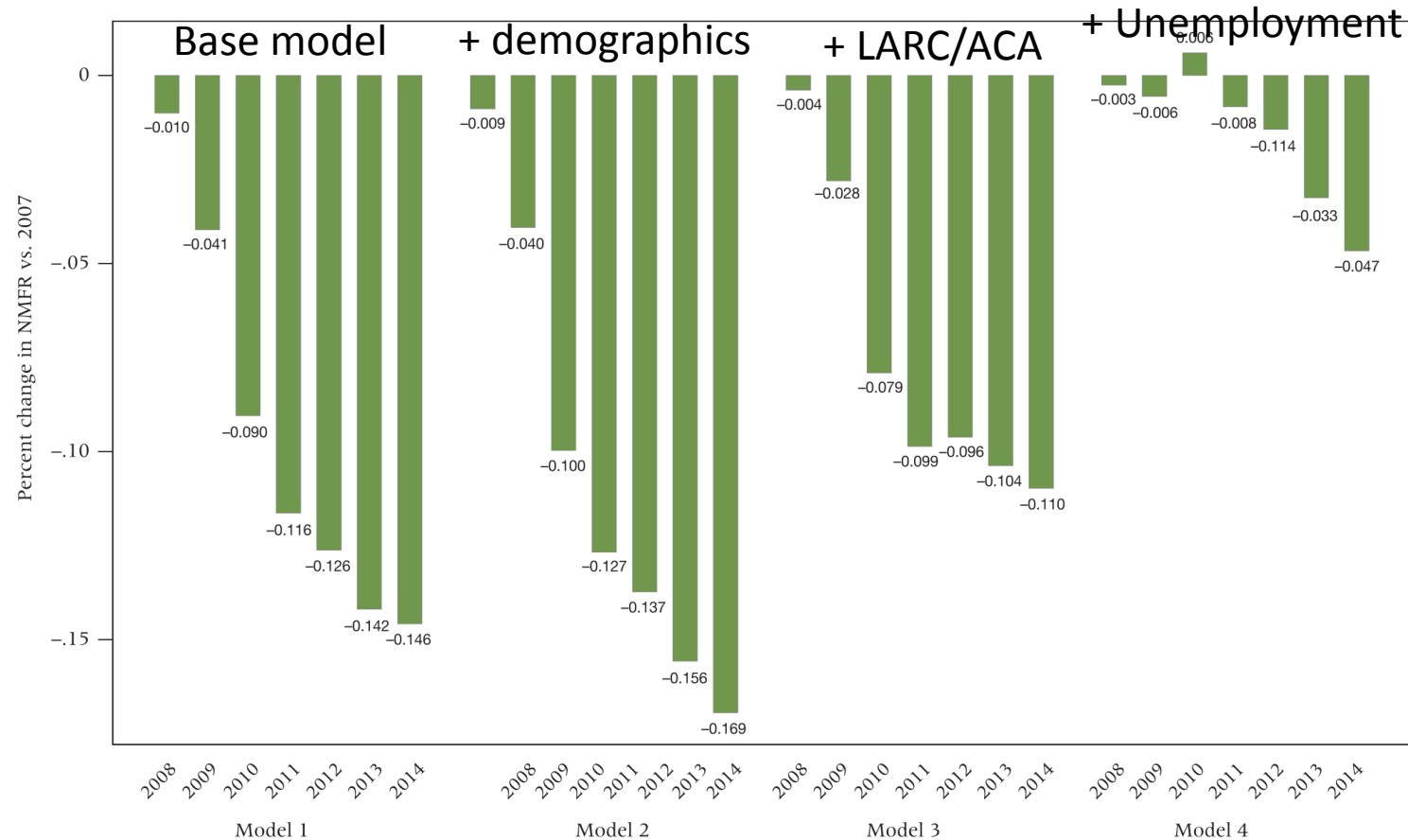
¹Implants were not available in 1982 and 1988.

Figure 4. Trends in long-acting reversible contraceptive use, by parity



LARCs/ACA are associated with population-level declines in non-marital fertility

FIGURE 6 Percent change in the predicted non-marital fertility rate in the US in 2008–14 relative to 2007



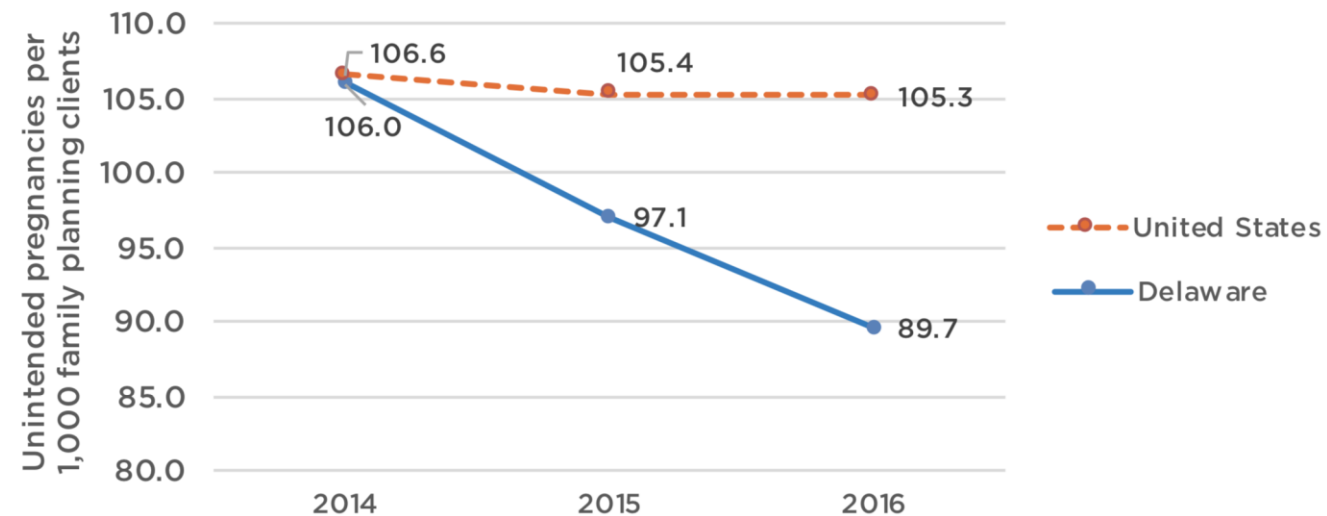
NOTE: For description of models see text.
SOURCE: State-level Vital Statistics.

Case Study: Delaware Contraceptive Access Now (Delaware CAN)

Among Title X family planning clients aged 20-39, there was an increase in LARC use from 13.7 to 27.0% from 2014 to 2016

These trends correspond to a simulated decrease in unintended pregnancy by 15%.

Figure 1. Simulated unintended pregnancy rates, Title X family planning clients aged 20-39* in Delaware and the United States, 2014-2016



Source: FamilyScope simulations using state-level Title X data from Delaware and from U.S. Title X data, 2014-2016

*We limited our study to women at risk of unintended pregnancy (sexually active and not pregnant or seeking pregnancy)

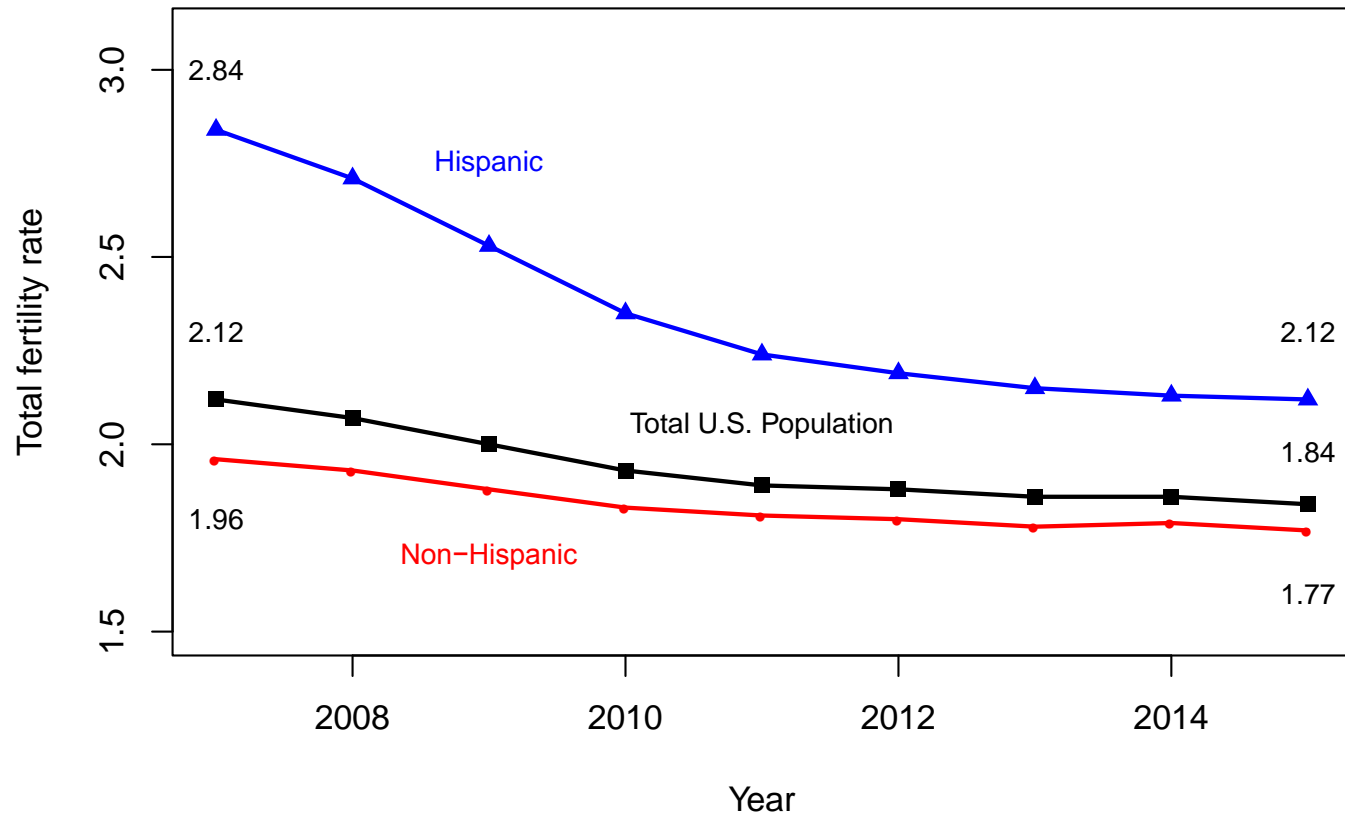
Case Study: Colorado Family Planning Initiative

- From 2009 to 2011, LARC use among 15-24-year-olds grew from 5% to 18%, and observed fertility rates among teens were 29% lower than expected (Ricketts et al. 2014)
- Program reduced the teen birth rate in participating counties by 6.4% over 5 years (Lindo and Packham 2017)

Will these declines in unintended pregnancy continue?

- Latest NSFG (2015-2017) continues to show increase in LARC use
- Increasing outreach and capacity-building to offer LARCs, especially among Title X family planning clinics
- But— economic pressures have loosened

The role of Hispanic fertility



	2007	2015	% decline
Total TFR	2.12	1.84	13.2
Hispanic TFR	2.84	2.12	25.3
Non-Hispanic TFR	1.96	1.77	9.7

Thank you

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